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Message Text

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56
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

CIEP-02 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /087 W
---------- 030742
O R 281430Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3888
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2187

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ZA

SUBJECT: LABOR DISPUTE: ZAMBIA AIRWAYS TRYS TO MAINTAIN
SERVICE

REF: LUSAKA 1753

1. IN RESPONSE TO A GO-SLOW, WORK-TO-RULE (RIGID ADHERENCE
TO ALL REGULATIONS) REGIME INSTITUTED BY EXPATRIATE PILOTS
AUGUST 15, GRZ TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JAMES
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MAPOMA ANNOUNCED IN LUSAKA AUGUST 25 THAT ALL ZAMBIAN

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AIRWAYS SERVICE, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, HAS BEEN SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY. ACCORDING TO AUGUST 26 PRESS ACCOUNTS, MAPOMA ALSO SAID UNSPECIFIC NUMBER OF EXPATRIATE PILOTS BEHIND STRIKE HAVE BEEN SACKED.

2. ZAMBIAN AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION RESORTED TO WORK-TO-RULE TACTIC AUGUST 15 WHEN MANAGEMENT REFUSED TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS FOR HIGHER WAGES AND ALLOWANCES. IN ADDITION TO 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES, PILOTS REPORTEDLY DEMANDING SALARY INCREASES RANGING FROM 72 TO 94 PERCENT FOR CAPTAINS, 70 PERCENT TO 77 PERCENT FOR SENIOR FLIGHT OFFICERS AND BETWEEN 28 TO 38 PERCENT FOR FLIGHT OFFICERS DEPENDING ON TYPE OF AIRCRAFT. PILOTS ALSO ARE DEMANDING THAT ALL ALLOWANCES BE TAX FREE. THEY JUSTIFY THEIR DEMANDS ON BASIS OF RECENT DEVALUATION OF KWACHA (REFTEL) AND ANTICIPATED INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING. DISRUPTION OF SCHEDULES AND INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS FROM "WORK TO RULE" TACTICS REPORTEDLY MOVED ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION OF SUSPENDING SERVICES.

3. ALTHOUGH SUSPENSION OF ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS SERVICE, ANNOUNCED AUGUST 25, WAS TO BE TOTAL, IT HAS NOT BEEN. GREATEST DISRUPTION APPARENTLY OCCURRED AUGUST 26 WHEN MOST FLIGHTS GROUNDED AND UP-COUNTRY TRAVELERS WERE UNABLE TO REACH LUSAKA TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS. HOWEVER, ZAMBIA AIRWAYS FLIGHT TO ROME NIGHT OF AUGUST 26 DID GO REPORTEDLY MANNED BY AIR LINGUS PERSONNEL. AIR LINGUS HAS A TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ZAMBIA AIRWAYS. ONE REPORT IS THAT AIR LINGUS IS UTILIZING ZAMBIA AIRWAYS EXPATRIATE PILOTS, NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH THOSE WHO ENGAGED IN SLOW-DOWN, TO REESTABLISH SERVICE. THERE WAS ALSO REPORT AUGUST 28 THAT ZAMBIA AIRWAYS HAD CHARTERED BOEING 707 OF BRITISH MIDLANDS AIRWAYS, WHICH BROUGHT UK MINISTER OF STATE TED ROWLANDS TO ZAMBIA AUGUST 27, FOR INTERCONTINENTAL SERVICE. AUGUST 28 PRESS ANNOUNCED WEEKEND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WOULD GO AND SEVERAL POPULAR INTERNAL TOURIST FLIGHTS WOULD BE MADE.

4. COMMENT: PRIME EMPHASIS APPEARS TO BE ON RESTORATION OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FIRST. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE
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SOURCE, ZAMBIA AIRWAYS HOPES TO HAVE SITUATION SORTED OUT OVER WEEKEND AND ALL SERVICES SUBSTANTIALLY RESTORED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 30. JUST HOW MANY OF THE EXPATRIATE PILOTS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED GO-SLOW IS NOT CLEAR.
LOW

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NNN

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